T/S News

Classic Computer Column
by Bill Ferrebee

This month we look at one of the first, and most popular, desktop publishing programs available for the T/S2068, Pixel Print.

Written by Stan Lemke, Pixel Print is a suite of programs that enable you to design and print a variety of custom documents. Signs, labels, cards and newsletters can be produced with this program.

For this month's column, we will take a look at Version 3.1 of Pixel Print. Other versions have been developed since, but Version 3.1 is the best one to start with. Other upgrades can be easily procured later.

Once you load the main program, the screen becomes a 32 X 94- character "column." You can view any 32 X 22 portion of the column at one time. Scrolling up/down the column is easy and can be done in as little as one pixel row at a time.

The column can be filled with text and/or graphics in any combination. Text can either be entered directly from the keyboard or imported through a conversion utility from Tasword Two text files. A later version will also convert MSCRIPT files.

A variety of fonts, borders and mastheads are available to give your document a professional look. Graphics can be placed in a document in one of two ways. Standard Screens from any T/S2068 graphics program can be loaded into a column, and graphic icons following the Zebra Systems Designer format can be used. Hundreds of icons are readily available.

Pixel Print is a true WYSIWYG program. Cursor placement can be controlled within one pixel in any direction.

Since there are a variety of print ers and T/S interfaces available, Pi Print is very easy to modify. Als can be converted to work on di microdrive.

Stan Lemke has placed Pixel Prin into public domain. You can get it from a number of T/S User Groups. You can also get a copy from Mountaineer Software (749 Hill Street #9, Parkersburg, WV 26104) for $10.00 to cover the cost of duplication and postage. Along with the program, you will receive a catalog of available fonts and icons.

If you want to try desktop publishing, Pixel Print is a great program start with. It's easy to use and the sults are very good.

Book Review

It seems that every time plication evolves for the per computer, a deluge of books on th subject appears. Everybody seems to be an expert on the genre. Desktop publishing is no exception. There are hundreds of books available on DTP, with more being released daily.

Since there are no T/S-specific DTP books available yet, the best tests to look for are those that are not hardware/software specific. There are a number of good books in this category.

Two we will look at this month are Looking Good In Print and The

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CLOCK BATTERIES

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Two we will look at this month are Looking Good In Print and The Makeover Book by Roger C. Park Both are published by Ventana P (P.O. Box 2468, Chapel Hill, NC 27515).

Looking Good is a text that is a great reference for any design layout purpose, be it computerized or traditional cut- and-paste. The ideas contained in this book are based on proven principles and will help anyone interested in making their printed material better looking.

Roger Parker is the owner and president of an advertising and marketing firm in Dover, NH. Several major companies, including Apple Computer, use his services. He has taken his years of experience and search to provide a first-class te design and layout.

Looking Good is easy to read a understand. Parker provides man examples throughout, including a computer chapter on "makeovers."

Also included are detailed explanations on specific types of output, such as ads, brochures, newsletters, manuals and more.

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The Makeover Book is an extension of his makeover concept. It contains over 100 before/after examples of what can be done by following proven design concepts.

With these two books, Roger Parker has taken a complicated subject and broken it down into simple concepts that are easy to understand. Looking Good and Makeover are two books that are a must for any person wanting to delve into desktop publishing.

Update Will Continue

One of the better T/S magazines has gotten a new publisher. Bill Jones, the founder of UPDATE, has decided to retire and spend more time programming and enjoying his hobby of sailing.

The new publisher of the quarterly magazine will be Frank Davis. Frank was the inspiration that brought the first three national T/S conventions to life and is very instrumental in SNUG, the national T/S Users Group.

Frank and his wife, Carol, will be keeping the magazine in its current format, with possibly some slight changes for the better. They will also continue to offer the programs in the magazine on disk.

If you would like to subscribe or renew, the rate is $18/year (Update, c/o Frank Davis, 513 East Main Street, Peru, IN 46970).

User Group of the Month

This month we feature SMUG as our User Group of the Month. Based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, SMUG (c/o Bill Heberlein, 5052 N. 91st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53225) is a very active organization. In June, SMUG produced the 1990 T/S Convention. Also, they are marketing a video digitizer for the T/S2068 (look for a review in a future column), publish a very nice monthly newsletter and maintain a public domain software library.

SMUG has a varied membership, using the entire line of T/S computers. The president is Neal Schultz and Bill Heberlein is vice president/newsletter editor. Keep up the good work, SMUG!

If you would like us to feature your User Group, send us information on what you're doing. If you publish a newsletter, send us a few issues.

It doesn't matter how large or small your group is. We want to know about you!

Dealer Spotlight

This month's Dealer Spotlight shines on RMG Enterprises of Oregon City, Oregon. Rod Gowen, owner of RMG, is a very dedicated T/S user. He is a very active member of the CCATS User Group and has helped to produce a number of T/S 'Fests in the Northwest.

If there is anything a T/S user needs, RMG should have it. Everything from software to books to interfaces, even extra T/S computers for backups.

RMG has bought the remaining inventory from T/S companies that have dissolved and has even procured exclusive rights to popular T/S software and books.

A RMG catalog is a complete guide to available T/S products. The catalog costs $3.00, but a coupon is included for $3.00 off your first purchase. If you include 12 SASEs, he will send you a monthly sales flyer with even more great buys.

It's great to have a person like Rod Gown in the T/S family. Drop him a line (RMG Enterprises, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045) and see what's available out there for your T/S.

Next Month

Well, that wraps it up for this month. We want to remind you to register your name, address and types of T/S computers used with our North American Database (yes, we want to hear from those of you in Canada and Mexico, too). Send your information, as well as any comments of suggestions for the column, to Mountaineer Software (address listed above).

Until next month, take care!